

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

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AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

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SUBJECT: AUGUST0 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. FRONT PAGE STORIES IN NYT (HERSH), SUN (CORDDRY), WP (GETLER) AND PHINQ REPORT SASC RELEASE OF 1969 MEMO SHOWING FORMER SECDEF LAIRD APPROVED FALSIFIED REPORTING OF SECRET 1969 RAIDS ON CAMBODIA. HIGHLY-CLASSIFIED GEN. WHEELER MEMO, OK'D BY LAIRD, SPECIFIED CAMBODIAN SORTIES TO BE PROGRAMMED AGAINST RVN TARGETS. WHEELER AND LAIRD HAD EARLIER DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF RECORD FALSIFICATION. ADM. MOORER SAYS 1969 DIPLOMATIC SITUATION REQUIRED COVER. DEP. SECDEF CLEMENTS PROVIDES SASC WITH 1967 DOCUMENT INDICATING MCNAMARA APPROVED LAOS RAIDS WITH VN COVER. INTENSIVE QUESTIONING BY SASC FAILS DETERMINE EXACTLY WHO ORDERED FALSE REPORTING, BUT SYSTEM SEEMS TO HAVE EVOLVED FROM 1967 OPS OF LBJ ADMINISTRATION. CLEMENTS AND MOORER PROMISE TO KEEP SASC FULLY INFORMED IN FUTURE. WHEN SHARP EXCHANGE DEVELOPED BETWEEN MOORER AND SENS. HUGHES AND SYMINGTON, SEN. THURMOND STAUNCHLY DEFENDED MEN IN UNIFORM. AT CLOSE, NEITHER CLEMENTS NOR MOORER ADMITS KNOWLEDGE OF WH AGREEMENT WITH SFRC NOT TO ESCALATE CURRENT CAMBODIA BOMBING

PRIOR TO AUG. 15 HALT UNLESS PROVOKED (GETLER, CORDDRY); BUT CLEMENTS COMMENTS THAT STEPPED-UP PRESSURE ON PP COULD QUALIFY AS PROVOCATION (GETLER). ALSO, NYDN, CSM).

2. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER REJECTS HOLTZMAN PETITION, BARS SPECIAL SESSION TO DECIDE WHETHER TO STOP CAMBODIAN BOMBING; JUSTICE DOUGLAS CRITICIZES COURT, SAYS IT MAY HAVE ACTED ILLEGALLY IN REVERSING HIS ORDER TO STOP BOMBING SINCE IT DID NOT CONVENE BUT WAS POLLED BY TELEPHONE (CHAPMAN, WP; SUN; REUTER AND AP PHINQ).

3. GKR REPORTS FIVE US AIR STRIKE ERRORS IN PAST TWO WEEKS WITH THREE PRIOR TO NEAK LUONG AT PREY BENG UNCLASSIFIED

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(3 KILLED, 10 WOUNDED, 4 MISSING); SETBO (16 WOUNDED, 4 MISSING); AND PRATEAH LANG (3 KILLED, 11 WOUNDED). MILITARY SOURCES ATTRIBUTE THREE EARLIER ERRORS TO FATIGUED CAMBODIAN CONTROLLERS WHO GAVE WRONG MAP COORDINATES (AP NYT, WP, SUN; PHINQ). US AIR ATTACHE PP DENIES US PLANES RECENTLY BOMBED VEAL SBOU BY ERROR KILLING 15 SINCE NO US AIR STRIKES AT TIME WITHIN ONE-HALF MILE (NYT, AP).

4. FANK MAKES GAINS AFTER US RAIDS (NYDN, WP). TEN TONS OF ARMS CACHES FOUND THIS WEEK IN PP, 30 ARRESTED INCLUDING MANY SINO-KHMERS (AFP). GKR BUTTRESSES DEFENSES OF PP (CSM). FANK CLAIMS HWAY 1 OPEN TO NEAK LUONG WITH CAPTURE OF DEI DOH

TOWN WHERE RIVER CONVOYS PREVIOUSLY AMBUSHED (AP NYT, SUN). ONE THOUSAND ENEMY COMMANDOS SAID TO HAVE INFILTRATED PP; REBEL FORCES AROUND CITY MAY EXCEED 50,000 (NYT, AP). REBEL BROADCASTS SAY GUERRILLAS HAVE ENTERED PP (CSM, WP). SEIDEN (SUN) SAYS MOST BELIEVE MILITARY SITUATION AWFUL AND PP PLACIDLY AWAITS ITS FALL AS REBELS CLOSE IN WITH INHABITANTS AND SOLDIERS INDIFFERENT.

5. KIRK (CHITRIB) SAYS CORRUPT CAMBODIAN COMMANDERS PROSPER BY PADDING PAYROLLS AND POCKETING PRIVATES' PAY, SO SOLDIERS DESERT AND SELL WEAPONS TO ARMS DEALERS AND TO ENEMY FOR MONEY TO LIVE ON. US OFFICIALS SEEM POWERLESS TO CHECK ON WHAT'S HAPPENING.

6. UGANDA PRES. AMIN SENDS LON NOL MESSAGE ADVISING DISMISSAL OF US TROOPS SINCE PRES. NIXON TOO PRE-OCCUPIED TO KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING. LETTER ALSO CONTAINS WORDS OF PRAISE FOR NIXON, ADVISES RECONCILIATION WITH SIHANOUK, AND REFERS TO ALL

PRINCIPALS AS AMIN'S "COLLEAGUES AND BROTHERS" (WP, AP; NYT, UPI).

7. MIA SEARCH HAS LITTLE SUCCESS; IN PAST SIX MONTHS REMAINS OF ONLY 12 OF OVER 1200 MIAS FOUND; NO INDICATION THAT ANY STILL ALIVE, BUT SEARCH UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTINUES (CSM).

8. IN SVN, BATTLE TAKES PLACE IN CENTRAL COAST BINH DINH PROVINCE WHERE VC MAY BE SEEKING ACCESS TO SEA; 56 REDS AND 8 ARVN REPORTED KILLED (NYDN; CSM; WP).

JAPAN

9. REUTER REPORTS ARRESTS FOR DRUG OFFENSES ARE UP 81 OVER 1971, ACCORDING TO THE GOJ HEALTH MINISTRY.

KOREA/JAPAN

10. OBERDORFER (WP) AND NYT REPORT FURTHER ON KIM DAI JUNG CASE. ROKG OFFICIALLY DENIES IT HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF OR CONNECTION WITH ABDUCTION IN STATEMENT BY ROK AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN. JAPANESE POLICE HAVE ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL HEADQUARTERS TO COORDINATE SEARCH, AND ARE KEEPING CLOSE WATCH ON PLANES AND SHIPS LEAVING COUNTRY. OBERDORFER REPORTS POLICE SOURCES SAY THEY HAVE NO SUBSTANTIAL CLUE TO KIM'S WHEREABOUTS OR IDENTITY ABDUCTORS.

ORGANIZATIONS OF KOREANS LIVING IN JAPAN WHO OPPOSE PARK HAVE FORMED "RESCUE COMMITTEE" ON KIM'S BEHALF AND SPECULATE KIDNAPPING CARRIED OUT BY KCIA. NK RADIO ACCUSES "SECRET AGENTS" OF ROKG. A GROUP OF KIM'S FRIENDS HAS APPEALED TO US AUTHORITIES TO DO ALL IN THEIR POWER TO HELP SECURE HIS RELEASE. THEY REPORT US OFFICIALS IN JAPAN HAVE CALLED GAIMUSHO TO EXPRESS CONCERN. POND (CSM) WRITES ON RIVAL THEORIES OF KIM'S DISAPPEARANCE: THAT KCIA IS RESPONSIBLE; OR THAT ANTI-PARK KOREANS STAGED KIDNAPPING TO EMBARRASS ROKG. PROPONENTS OF FIRST THEORY POINT TO HISTORY OF KCIA KIDNAPPINGS, TO FACT THAT FIRST KOREAN ON SCENE OF ABDUCTION WAS KCIA MINISTER OF EMBASSY, THAT KCIA CHIEF IN US - REPORTEDLY A KIDNAPPING SPECIALIST - HAS BEEN IN ROK FOR A WEEK, AND TO REPORTS FROM SOURCES CLOSE TO JAPANESE POLICE THAT FOUR GROUPS OF KCIA AGENTS ENTERED JAPAN VERY RECENTLY, OSTENSIBLY TO CHECK OUT NK SPIES. GOJ OFFICIALS DENY KCIA UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTIVITY PERMITTED IN JAPAN, BUT SOURCES CLOSE TO

POLICE SAY KCIA ACTIVITIES DELIBERATELY OVERLOOKED AS LONG AS NOT OVERTLY CRIMINAL. TOLERATION STEMS FROM ANTI-COMMUNIST COOPERATION, AND JAPANESE DEPENDENCE ON KOREAN SOURCES FOR INTELLIGENCE ON KOREAN RESIDENTS. SOME DIPLOMATS ARGUE KIDNAPPING BY KCIA ILLOGICAL IN LIGHT OF UPCOMING UN DEBATES, BUT OTHERS SAY KCIA NOT LIKELY TO CLEAR ACTIONS WITH FONMIN. OTHER THEORY RESTS ON PECULIAR LACK OF EYEWITNESSES TO REMOVAL OF KIM FROM 22ND FLOOR OF HOTEL TO GETAWAY VEHICLE, AND TO JAPANESE POLICE DESCRIPTION OF KIDNAPPING AS "AMATEURISH" IN THAT FINGERPRINTS AND OTHER MATERIAL EVIDENCE LEFT BEHIND. ROKG DEPUTY FORNMIN ASKED JAPANESE AMB. SEOUL FOR THOROUGH GOJ INVESTIGATION.

PRC

11. BURNS (TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL, IN NYT, WP) REPORTS CCP WILL CONVENE 10TH CONGRESS NEXT WEEK, AND USE OCCASION FOR FIRST OUTRIGHT DENUNCIATION OF LIN PIAO, ACCORDING TO AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES. OTHER ITEMS ON AGENDA ALMOST CERTAIN TO INCLUDE RESOLUTIONS REAFFIRMING FOREIGN, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL POLICIES. RELIABLY UNDERSTOOD THAT CONGRESS WILL ENDORSE REPORT CONDEMNING LIN AS RIGHT WING OPPORTUNIST WHO SCHEMED WITH CHEN PO-TA TO RESTORE CAPITALISM. REPORT IS ALSO LIKELY TO CHARGE LIN WITH TREASONABLE CONTACTS WITH RUSSIANS AFTER MARCH '69 BORDER CLASHES.

12. AFP REPORTS (PEKING, NYT) KISSINGER WILL NOT GO
TO PEKING THIS MONTH, DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY.
OBSERVERS SEE STATEMENT AS INDIRECT CONFIRMATION
OF POSTPONEMENT OF TRIP. REASON THOUGHT TO BE
SIHANOUK'S CATEGORICAL REFUSAL TO MEET HAK.

PHILIPPINES

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